

A SHORTER PLAYING SEASON IS AGITATED BY THE BASEBALL FANS

Present Season Begins Too Early and Lasts Too Late in the Year to Hold Interest, Is Claim; Magnates Oppose Cutting Schedule, Fearing Loss of Money Derived From 14 to 18 Games; Another Reform Needed.

FRANK G. MENKE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—The baseball magnates would make a master stroke if they shortened the playing season from 154 games to 134 games, opening the season about May 1, and closing it Sept. 30.

One of the troubles with baseball is that the season begins too soon and ends at a time when interest is dead. There is such a thing as too much baseball—and that is what has been going on for many years.

April 15 Too Early.

The middle of April is too early to start a baseball season. The past has demonstrated that beyond the point of agreement. The April weather always is a variety that rarely can a team play out its April schedule, and even if it does, the outdoor conditions are such that the game always draws a crowd, but during the balance of the month the attendance is small.

The season ought to end October 1. Dragging it along until Oct. 6 or 7 is a mistake. By that time, the fan has lost its interest in the regular diamond combat. Its attention has shifted to the world series and to football.

Receipts Would Suffer Little. The 134 and 146 game schedules have been suggested frequently in years gone by—but the magnates have pooled the plan. Such a "sack" would chop off 14 to 18 games, and how could the magnates live throughout the year without the receipts from those extra games? That's how the magnates figure it, but it is a fairly safe bet that they would draw down approximately as much for those 134 or 146 games as they do now in 154.

Well, simply because they suffer an average of five postponements in April and in the second place their April and October games rarely draw any crowds. If the public didn't get quite so much baseball it might appreciate it more.

Farish Miderason Trades. No better baseball reform ever has been suggested than that fathered by Clarke Griffith which would bar the

sale or trade of players during the playing season.

The practice of strengthening a pennant chasing team by robbing a mediocre club of its stars is a blot on the escutcheon of baseball. And it hurts the game as no other trick can hurt it. The 1915 season furnished an excellent example of this evil.

Comiskey Got Jackson. Joe Jackson was the only real star on the Cleveland roster. It was Jackson's presence in the lineup that drew the bulk of the small crowds that saw the Indians in action. In mid-season the White Sox were in the thick of the pennant fight. Comiskey needed an outfielder of the slugging type—and Jackson was the man. He knew the Cleveland club needed money, and so he played on its weak spot—money—made a \$25,000 offer—and got Jackson.

What happened? Jackson strengthened the White Sox, yes, but his going soured the Cleveland fans on the club, the home attendance dropped almost to nothing and on the road the Jackson-less Indians played almost to empty seats.

Tigers Bought Men. Hughie Jennings's Tigers also were in the pennant fight. It was figured that if they could get one or two good pitchers immediately they might win the flag. So Hughie scouted around and found the men he wanted on the payroll of the Browns. These men were pitchers James and Loudermilk.

The Tigers made a huge offer to the Browns owners for those two pitchers—and they got them because the Browns needed the money.

In mid-season the Red Sox needed a first-class second baseman. Jack Barry was the man they wanted. Connie Mack had saved Barry from the wreckage of the Athletics' 1914 machine but the lure of Joe Lannin's gold was too strong—and Barry went to the Red Sox, bolstered up the infield and set the pace that shot the Red Sox under the wire ahead of the field.

Where Money Counts. And then there's another side—one which a wealthy club can take advantage of a poor one. Suppose the Red Sox in 1915 had not been well equipped financially. They couldn't have purchased Barry, and without Barry they might not have been able to win, because the purchases of the White Sox and Tigers had strengthened those teams to a point where they were stronger than the 1915 team that Lannin put into the field.

A club ought to be forced to go through a season without outside aid and here's the hope that Griffith put through his resolution at the American league meeting. It would help the game.

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CHICAGO scribe says that most of us have something to be thankful for, but what about Garry Hermann? They have made him president of the Cincinnati Reds once more.

LOS ANGELES scribes haven't forgotten the incident where Houdini, a "strong man" in vaudeville, "bawled out" big Jess Willard and every now and again they have a dig at the heavyweight champ. It is quite evident that Willard's tactics have not gained him any popularity in his home town.

ACCOMMODATE dealers, accessory and tire men are reminded of the big meeting and dinner which is to be held at the Sheldon grill on Friday evening, starting at 6:30 o'clock. Late arrivals and absentees will be subject to "severe penalties."

Cactus club had a fine bunch of basketball players out at the Y. M. C. A. on Wednesday evening and it is evident that the club is going to have a very strong team in the City league this winter but the best way to get a line on the merits of the team is to attend the exhibition game at the "Y" on Friday night between the Cactus five and the New Mexico "Aggies."

PEACE now seems to be assured in the major league baseball scrap. With the Federals practically taking over the National league, it does not look as though the "out-laws" are having any of the worst of the peace pact. Incidentally, the new life in the National will likely improve the quality of baseball in this circuit and put it back on a par with the American.

A RELIEF FOR A MARRIED MAN

BY TAD

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"Beck's" Amen Corner

BY "BECK"

BROOKLYN Federals are reported to be seriously considering Sunday baseball in 1916. George Ward, the new president of the club, has not the same objection to Sunday baseball that his brother, Robert, had. If Sunday games are played in Brooklyn, the club will not be able to charge admission but collections may be taken up.

AMERICAN Bowling Congress will hold its annual tournament at Toledo on March 4 and succeeding days. The early indications are for a heavier entry than in any previous tournament and big preparations are being made by the Toledo trundlers for the entertainment of the visitors.

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NO one has yet come forward with a fat bankroll to make possible the entry of El Paso into the Texas Baseball league on the conditions named by president J. Walter Morris. If El Paso wants class B baseball, now is the time to take some action. The majority of the fans seem to be of the opinion that class D baseball will serve another season and if the Rio Grande association gives us as good baseball next year as they did in their first short season, there will be no kick coming. We got class B ball with a class D expense.

MIDWINTER tennis is the plan now being considered by the El Paso Country club and the proposition is one that is bound to get a lot of publicity for El Paso and impress easterners with the mild winter climate of the southwest.

THREE soccer teams are now playing the game in the Miami-Globe district. The Miami eleven has won six, lost one and tied two games in nine played while the Globe United team has won one and lost one in two played. The Globe Moose have tied two and lost five in seven played. The Miami paper, in tabulating the standing, has made a few slight mistakes in the points. In soccer, a win counts two points and a tie one. Thus the Globe United is entitled to three points and the Moose two while the Miami club has 14.

FRED STRIBLEY, secretary of the Miami soccer club, sends in a report of the last game between Miami and Moose, in which the former won, 3 to 0. The Miami club showed the result of much practice and played a finished game. It is to be hoped that arrangements will be made for a series of games between the teams from the Miami-Globe district and a local all-star eleven.

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Pal Brown Almost Broke Into Prison

Thought He Was Getting Into Park

By "BECK." PAL BROWN, the fighting, Minn., lightweight, is to fight Matty McCue before a Duluth club next Friday and his picture was run in a Duluth paper of last Sunday alongside a Briggs cartoon of "The Days of Real Sport," depicting a snowstorm. All of which recalls a story about this same Pal Brown which makes interesting reading.

Three years ago when the writer was in western Canada, Pal was a big favorite of the fight fans up there. He was a rival of "Fighting" Dick Hyland for the lightweight honors of the prairie provinces and fought Hyland several times as well as meeting "Kid" Sceler and a lot of others not as well known.

Days Short, Night Long. The scaler fight took place at Edmonton, which is one of the most northerly cities on the continent, in December, 1912. Pal arrived there about ten days before the fight and put up at a hotel run by a well known fight fan. The winter days are very short in Edmonton, just as the summer days are very long. It doesn't get real daylight up there until about 8:30 a. m.

When Pal arrived in Edmonton, he didn't know the city very well and he didn't know the hotel man where he could get a good chance for some road work early in the morning. He was told to head west about a mile, and he would come in the fair grounds.

He Follows Advice. "If you can't locate the gate, just climb the fence and you'll find a good half mile track there," said the hotel man.

About 6 o'clock next morning Pal headed out from the hotel. It was snowing hard and very dark but he followed the instructions given him. After running for a while, he came to a high board fence. He failed to locate any gate, so he decided to take the tip and climb the fence.

That fence was almost 20 feet in height but a half hour of laborious effort, assisted by sundry boards he picked up nearby and used for a ladder, saw Pal grasping the top of the fence.

And then the blow-off. And just then a hoarse voice was heard out of the snowstorm. "Hands up and be dash quick about it!" As he needed his hands to hang on to the fence, Pal couldn't comply but made himself known and a uniformed man came up on a board walk just inside the fence.

"Say, what are you trying to do here?" he demanded. "What I'm trying to get inside so that I can have a good run," explained the fighter.

It Was the Prison. "Get what I mean? A lot of guys trying to break out of this place but you're the first I've found trying to break in," replied the uniformed man. And then Pal discovered that he had climbed the wrong fence and was trying to break into the provincial penitentiary. Needless to say, further action was not taken.

By "BECK." ROADWORK was called off for that morning. Hyland was his rival. "Fighting" Dick Hyland was then Brown's greatest rival in that territory and the story of how the veteran lightweight got his "fighting name" will be of interest.

Hyland has been in the ring many years so it is needless to say that the events about to be related occurred sometime ago. We will go back to the days when Hyland was a scrappy youngster on the streets of San Francisco.

WINTER TENNIS AT LOCAL CLUB

January Meet Planned; Big Soccer Bill Sunday; Two Basketball Games.

The El Paso Country club is now taking steps to hold a midwinter tennis tournament on its courts some time in January and Stuart Blackman is now making the preliminary arrangements. Sanction of the United States National Lawn Tennis association will be secured and the tournament records will be official. It is likely that many players from other southwestern cities will take part, though it is hardly to be expected that the entry will be as heavy as was the case for the Border States tournament last summer.

Plans for a winter soccer contest at the El Paso park next Sunday afternoon are now being made. The E. P. & S. W. team is expected to make its debut against the 30th Infantry eleven, another new aggregation, while those old rivals, the 15th Infantry and the United Empire club, will meet in the other half of the bill.

With two games on the card, it is likely that the period will be shortened and they will have the effect of speeding up play, which should be fast and exciting from start to finish.

The proposal to arrange a series of exhibition games between soccer teams from El Paso, Miami and Globe is meeting with general approval in the mining cities. The Miami club, which now leads the mining league, is anxious to hook up with the El Paso City players, while reports from Globe are that the Moose and the United are considering the matter.

Members of the Cactus club basketball team had a good practice at the Y. M. C. A. Wednesday evening and are now ready for the big game on Saturday evening at the "Y" with the New Mexico A. and M. team from Mesilla Park.

The Wain and Feldman teams, two new entrants into the City league, have been booked for Wednesday night and they will take the floor at 7:30 o'clock, with the Cactus-Aggie game starting soon after 8 o'clock.

Jim Brown writes from Miami that he is ready to start for the Colorado section of the El Paso Country club association right after the holidays. It is likely that Jim will go to Pueblo for his preliminary game, as he can be done in the matter of organizing a club. He proved himself a careful manager as season after season, together with other league rules. Brown is popular in El Paso and the local fans will wish him success in the north.

The Northern league has decided to continue operation in 1916 and is now considering a transfer of a couple of franchises. Bill Hurley, late Las Cruces leader, is anxious to see Saskatoon get into the northern circuit, along with Regina, and if Saskatoon grabs a franchise, it is more than likely that Hurley will be the manager. As he has a couple of pennants for that city in the old Western Canada league.

youngster's new employer. On the way to the timekeeper's shack, young Joe figured that his parents would have placed the police on his trail and that if he gave the name of Joseph Young as his name, he would be picked up and sent back home.

Picked Brewer's Name. He decided that he would pick some other name for himself, and he had to pick some name which he would remember. Tommy Ryan, a big brewer, was then the mayor of Syracuse, and probably the best known man in the Youngster's home town.

When he turned in his name, it was that of "Tommy Ryan" and after he had won ring fame in Michigan, first in the western bare knuckle battles of the construction camps, and then in the fights around Detroit, he decided to stick to his new name and to this day he is known as Tommy Ryan.

Ryan is running a boxing club in Syracuse, N. Y., and is fairly well off. He maintains an automobile and lives royally, but once a dollar gets into his hand, Tommy hangs on to it a long time before he lets it go. The natural result is that he has a fat bank account and need never worry about his old age.

SIXTH ARTILLERY TEAM WILL PLAY C. & A. ELEVEN. Bishop, Ariz., Dec. 16.—The Sixth Field Artillery's football team will play the Calumet and Arizona eleven as a Christmas day feature. The cannoners are among the best in the army and have shown high class work this season.

18TH INFANTRY LOSES TO 22ND INFANTRY TEAM. Douglas, Ariz., Dec. 16.—The football team of the 18th Infantry defeated the eleven of the 22nd Infantry by a score of 22 to 0. The 22nd Infantry showed better coaching and outclassed the opposition.

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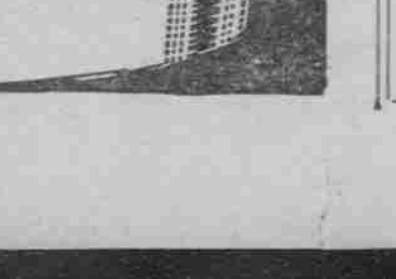
JUST AN EARFUL-BY TAD JAMES EDWARD BRITT, the Beat Brummel of the ring, wasn't always as peaceful a citizen as he is today.

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In the last tourney that James entered was a large German boy by the name of Fred Bell. This kick was the "dark horse" of the lightweight class, and drew Britt for his opponent on the first night.

James was told of the "dark horse" and prepared to give him the time of his young life.

When the bell rang for the first round of that quarrel Britt and Bell tore into each other like wolves. It was nip and tuck, take your pick, and the crowd went wild with excitement. The bell clanged with honors even.



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